A REMINDER TO

The PEOPLE of AMERICA

COMMON SENSE; AGAIN

All equal under the law
One vote each
NO KINGS

On the Following Subjects

I. On 250 Years of Democracy

II. Of the Money Monarchy

III. On the State of Our Republic

IV. Of Our Ability and Possibility

V. Of Oath and Truth

VI. Our Promise to the Future

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Preface—Common Sense; Again

We argued this before—with a king in robes and a crown. We said the law would rule—that all are created equal and no class is born to govern. Two hundred and fifty years on, the claim returns in new costume—entitled wealth and access. Once again, in common sense, we remind: all are equal under law; one vote each.
NO KINGS THEN; NO KINGS NOW; NO KINGS EVER.

Perhaps the sentiments in these brief pages won't feel fashionable; habit gives error a varnish of rightness, and noise defends custom. But noise is not truth. We live in an age of unbounded words—uncensored, unedited, amplified by the hour—where a lie repeated grows loud, not true. Assertions, however confident, are not truth; a claim, however widespread, is not evidence. Truth requires proof any citizen may examine.

A steady abuse of power finally forces its claim to be questioned. So today, when moneyed influence and insider access act as monarch and court, the body of the people retains an undoubted constitutional power to examine the pretensions of parties and patrons alike—to alter what has gone astray, to institute better, and to shore up the guardrails that keep a republic by law and by the ballot. The few chosen to represent are but agents of that will—not its masters. We do not invent a novelty; we redeclare first principles: that the many lend power of representation to the few, and may recall it by law.

What follows is a remembrance—of first purposes already declared, of structures already built, and of why they now erode. After long trial, we see which timbers hold and which fail. We pledge to strengthen the frame of self-government, so that no single person—or circle of power—can run the republic; and to remain a nation of equals—regardless of race, creed, or faith—kept by law and by the consent of the governed.

A vote is a beating heart. The rule of law is its steady pulse.
Keep them strong—and the republic lives.

— Citizen 250

Foreword—The Federalist Spirit

It is given to the people of the United States to decide, again, whether our representative democracy will be secured by reflection and choice—or left to drift by erosion and coercion. We stand in the tradition of the Federalist essays of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison.

The genius of our self-government rests on simple guardrails put to work in practice: separated powers with each branch checking the others; a legislature as the people's voice, kept fair by rules that put voters before advantage; an executive energetic enough to act, bounded by law and oversight; and a judiciary that supplies judgment, not will.

Yet practice too often strays beyond those guardrails: courts revisiting precedent and reading history through preferred theories; executives governing by order beyond clear statutory or constitutional warrant; and legislators drawing lines to choose their voters and too often answering more to donors than to voters—power raised above representation, money mistaken for voice. These failures cross parties and administrations; the remedies we urge are for every side.

We hold, as ever, that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. When government drifts from these ends—when any one branch would claim the whole, when loyalty to leaders displaces loyalty to law, or when money is taken for a voice—the people hold the constitutional power to alter it, to institute better, and to reinforce the safeguards.

Across fifty states and more than three hundred million people, only a few thousand sworn officers serve. Let no American suppose the people are outnumbered by office: authority flows upward from the many, and returns to them when trust is broken—by law.

In 1776, a Declaration. Now, at 250, a Re-Declaration—to clarify, reaffirm, and tighten the protections that must secure the next 250 years: through law, visibility, and equal justice for all.

— Federalist 250

Overview —Common Sense; Again

A Re-Declaration at 250: consent first, law above power, equal say over wealth.

I. On 250 Years of Democracy

Consent first; law above power; a Constitution designed to evolve.

II. Of the Money Monarchy

Name the modern “court” of concentrated money—and bind it to the people.

III. On the State of Our Republic

Where practice drifted: fog, fire, and incentives that favor donors over duty.

IV. Of Our Ability and Possibility

Practical levers to make representation real, verify truth, and track influence.

V. Of Oath and Truth

Office is a sworn trust; truth is evidence shown. Break the oath, lose the office—fairly and fast.

VI. Our Promise to the Future

Build repairs that last: visibility by default, equal justice, rotation in service, and accountability that bites.

I. On 250 Years of Democracy

> “We the People of the United States,
> in Order to form a more perfect Union,
> establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,
> provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare,
> and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,
> do ordain and establish this Constitution…”

Preamble to the Constitution

Though Common Sense came before these words,
the Preamble gave voice to the purpose of the republic.

The framers did not expect the world to stand still.
They knew tomorrow would differ from today.
They gave us a charter that could breathe.

They did what no dynasty or empire had done.
They did not list what citizens may do.
They listed what government may do— and nothing more.

With “We the People,” sovereignty shifted.
Government became a creature of delegated power.
The rest remained with the people—
our rights, our initiative, our consent.

This was the radical gift:
the founders gave authority away.

Those words outlasted tyrants and totalitarian states.

> Yet two hundred and fifty years later,
> with hundreds of millions across a continent—
> the republic endures, a representative democracy,
> grounded in law, answerable to the people who give it life.

One person, one equal say.
The ballot is how power changes hands.
Representation is measured in ballots, not bank balances.

We did more than endure—we grew.

We abolished slavery.
We enfranchised women.
We secured civil rights.

We did not perfect liberty once; we practiced it.
With each amendment, the door opened wider.
The Constitution's genius is to evolve with us—by amendment—
so it can open as the people require.

The task is ours still.
As the world changes,
we must keep the promise alive.
honestly living the Constitution's guarantees
and, when necessary, amending it—
so the Preamble's aims remain at the center of our experiment.

Its spirit is not restraint, but renewal—rebirth.

> So that government
> of the people,
> by the people,
> for the people,
> shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg Address* (1863)

In that spirit, at 250 we re-declare the Republic
—consent before power; law above office; one equal say.

Citizens vote. Dollars don't.

II. Of the Money Monarchy

We cast off a crown of blood
and have suffered a crown of money.

Money speaks softly in committees and shouts loudly in elections.
Money hides in exemptions and appears as privilege.
Money is not hereditary in title, yet it is hereditary in treasure.
And left unchecked, Money buys power; then power forgets the people.

Money floods the forum.
Money writes the midnight bill.
Money is treated as speech.
Money hires yesterday's officeholder to shape tomorrow's law.
Money draws the lines that dilute voices and shield the few.

And who pays the price?
Not the lords of money, but the people.

The tax code grows clever where means are great,
and heavy where means are small.
Fines and fees bite the household that cannot afford counsel,
while loopholes cushion those who can.

This is not the people's failure.
This is the design of those who profit from fatigue.

We honor enterprise.
We cheer the builder, the risk-taker, the servant of the community.
But when success is kept by buying rules,
when profit is piled on the backs of those without a lobby,
that is not liberty.
That is monarchy in modern clothes.

No ledger can bleed.
No balance sheet can love.
And nothing that cannot love should outrank those who can.

The error is not eternal; it can be mended.
The people wrote the Constitution,
and the people may amend it.
If money has been mistaken for speech,
or a business for a citizen,
then the people may correct that mistake.

Kings once ruled by decree.
Money now too often rules by purchase.
Both can be overturned the same way
—by the consent of the governed.

> The Money Monarchy's first enemy is light;
> therefore, light must be our first remedy.

No more back rooms.
No more midnight laws.
No more mistaking money for a voice.

Citizens vote. Dollars don't.

III. On the State of Our Republic

We are not broken; we are blurred.
Fog and fire—two tools of misrule.
Fog to hide what is done. Fire to set us against each other.

Fog fills the laws: pages too long to read, changes buried in footnotes, authorship hidden behind cut-outs.
Fire fills the air: outrage sold as news, neighbors cast as enemies, faith and color and identity turned into weapons to keep the many apart.

Fog covers the courts.
Fire scorches the guardrails.
Norms fall, agreements fray, and power walks where no guard was built,
because the old guard assumed honor.
Where tradition was our guardrail, law must now be our wall.

We are told to fight each other
—red against blue, city against town, believer against believer
—while the wealthy count their profits, the rest of us pay the bill.

We are fed distraction to keep us from seeing extraction.
Lies replace light. Noise replaces notice.
The game is to keep the citizens quarreling, so the elite can keep counting.

But the truth is older than the lies:
We are a nation of many faiths and no faith.
Many colors and no color.
Many languages, many identities
—but each of us is American.

The brilliance of this republic was never sameness;
it was the promise that differences could share one table.
We do not wake each morning to hate our neighbor.
We wake to live, to work, to love, to be left free.

When fog hides and fire divides, law itself begins to tilt.
A court unmoored, an executive unchecked,
a legislature captured—none of these are fates;

they are failures of consent, and consent can be restored.
The Constitution was built to be amended,
the branches to be balanced, power to be recalled.

No privilege is permanent; no abuse beyond correction.

Let no one say reform is rebellion.
Reform is our tradition. Reform is our duty.

The first step is to see clearly.
The second is to stand together.
Fog lifts.
Fire cools.
Neighbors remember they are neighbors.
And the people remember they are many.

The measure is simple and old:
Serve the people, or stand aside.
Government exists to serve the people.
Fail that service—be reminded:
we are a representative democracy.
Represent yourself—you've failed.
You serve by the consent of the governed.

When money feels like monarchy,
the people remember their power.
Money may dress itself as a voice, but it has no vote.

United Citizens is our pledge of evolution:
from rule by wealth to rule by consent,
from voices for dollars to voices for neighbors,
from darkness to light.

We are 340 million people, different yet one.
We are 340 million people, neighbors in liberty.
We are 340 million people, United Citizens.

We the People.

Citizens vote. Dollars don't.

IV. Of Our Ability and Possibility

The remedy is not rage but rights;
Not secrecy but sight;
Not fewer voices but many.

Our Voice—visibility and authorship

What governs us must be visible to us.
Plain laws: language a citizen can read.
Meanings plain. Terms defined. Intent stated.

Names on the lines—who wrote, who amended, and when.
No more midnight bills with noon votes.
Time for the people to read what will bind the people.

Sign with understanding—attest you have read what you endorse.
Notice before action. Reasons on the record.
An audit trail so trust rests on process, not on persons.

> Light is not a favor; it is the people's due.

Our Vote—fair representation and equal say

A many-voiced people deserves a many-voiced chamber.
Representation should mirror the country—
not the cleverness of lines or the loudness of purses.

Seats that carry more of us, not cancel millions of votes.
Ballots that record true preference, not force false choices.
A welcome at the polls for every eligible citizen—
simple, secure, and certain—from registration through counting,
with guardians independent of any faction.

We are a nation drawn from all places;
our elections should sound like our chorus.

Our Share—fair burden and shared prosperity

When the country rises, we all should rise.
Public peace and ordered liberty are the scaffolds of prosperity;
gains made safe by the many owe a courtesy to the many.

Protect a hardship floor—do not tax the basic necessities into scarcity.
Fair burden—no fortune buys the rules,
and the humble are not made to carry loads built for giants.

Shared uplift—plenty should be felt in common life;
in lean years, prudence and stored strength steady the whole.

We honor enterprise.
We cheer the builder, the risk-taker,
the servant of the community.
But success must not turn into rule.
No business shall outrank a citizen.

Citizens vote. Dollars don’t.

V. Of Oath and Truth

Words have meaning. **An oath is a moral contract.**

The Constitution requires it—not custom.
Article VI binds legislators, judges, and officers by oath to support the Constitution.
Article II gives the President's: to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.

No oath, no office.
Take the oath; be bound by it.
Not to a person. Not to a party.
To the Constitution—and through it, to the people.

Truth is the first duty.
Lies rot a republic.
Call falsehood "news," call fact "fake,"
and law itself begins to tilt.

A free people needs two lights:
truth in the square; fidelity in the office.
Without truth, consent is counterfeit.
Without oath, power is theft.

Say it plain: keep the rules of the office you hold;

Break the oath in any way:
— Willful obstruction.
— Misrepresent the truth.
— Refusal to uphold the Constitution.
— Failure to faithfully discharge the duties of office.
and upon due process, lose the office—
not out of rage, but out of duty,
so the Constitution remains more than words.

Our standard is the Constitution.
Our measure is the law.
Our charge is the truth.

Our duty as citizens is the same:
vote, serve, bear witness, tell the truth.
Neighbors before factions.
Country before party.
Consent given in light—
and withdrawn only when all else fails.

Keep faith with oath and truth, and
Our Voice can be light,
Our Vote can be consent,
Our Share can be fair.
Abandon them, and all three fail.

Let it be known across this land:
we will not trade truth for noise,
nor oaths for idols.

Citizens vote. Dollars don’t.

VI. Our Promise to the Future

United Citizens, because oath and truth must govern power,
we now set down the reforms that will keep consent real for the next 250 years.

The United States remains a representative democracy,
a constitutional republic where sovereignty rests with the people,
and authority is only delegated for a time to citizen-representatives.

Office is a trust, not a throne.
Those who serve should return to ordinary life.
Those who judge should be independent.
Those who legislate should answer to the many, not the moneyed few.

This design has been warped.
Undisclosed money, carved districts, and perpetual fundraising
have turned representation into a marketplace.
Executives who govern by order—beyond clear law or constitutional warrant—
strain the boundaries of their office.
Judges who revisit precedent to read history through preferred theories
tilt the scales of justice.
While power works to rewrite the rules and muffle the people's voice,
we are set against one another—right against left, town against city—
so quarrel hides the hand that bends the law.
It is no accident; it is a tactic.

Division is the smoke by which corruption crosses the room.

Consent is not a relic;
it is the living voice of our Republic.
Representatives are not rulers;
they are citizen-representatives
who carry our will, then lay the burden down.
A business is not a citizen; only people give consent.
Success in enterprise is welcome; rule by wealth is not.

Law must be common, visible, and plain.
Power must be bounded.
The people must be heard.

Hold fast to Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Share—
light over shadow, unity over faction, people over wealth—
and this Republic will remember its origins, and thrive for all.

By our consent we keep faith with those who came before and those who come after,
so that government of the people, by the people, for the people
shall not perish, but prosper—amended, guarded, and free.

The spirit of 1776 still lives in 2026.

United Citizens.

We declare.

Re-Declare

the Republic.

Common Sense;
Again
— Citizen 250.

Non-violence clause
We advocate only lawful, peaceful civic action.
We reject threats, harassment, or intimidation in any form.

Civic-speech disclaimer
Independent civic commentary.
Not authorized by any candidate or committee.
No government affiliation or endorsement is implied.
As assured by the Constitution's guarantee of free speech and free press.